breaker, and wherein each inlet opening includes an associated outlet channel, formed by at least one of channel walls and deflection elements, to dissipate the switching gas flows at the sides.

2. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in a three-pole low-voltage power circuit breaker, a channel wall is arranged parallel to the front wall and a further channel wall is arranged parallel to the rear wall which, in conjunction with deflection elements, form a total of three outlet channels of which the outer outlet channels, bounded by the front wall and by the rear wall, are closed on opposite sides by a side wall, and wherein the central outlet channel, which is bounded by the channel walls, is open on both sides to permit the switching gas flows which emerge from the outer arcing chambers of the low-voltage power circuit breaker to be carried away separately on opposite sides, while the switching gas flow which emerges from the central arcing chamber is permitted to pass from the switching gas damper to free space on both sides through the central outlet channel.

3. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 2, wherein the channel walls extend from the bottom to the cover of the switching gas damper, and wherein the side walls are arranged on the same side of the switching gas damper as the outer arcing chambers, such that the switching gas flows of the outer arcing chambers are passed, parallel to the front wall and to the rear wall of the switching gas damper, to the respectively opposite side of the low-voltage power circuit breaker, and the switching gas flow of the central arcing chamber is passed to the two opposite sides.

4. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 2, wherein one deflection element is arranged such that it extends above the inlet openings which are associated with the outer arcing chambers in the bottom of the switching gas damper and

between the channel walls, and wherein a side part is arranged on the mutually facing sides of the deflection elements in order to separate the switching gas flows of the outer poles and the switching gas flow of the central pole.

5. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first deflection element extends, starting from the bottom on the first channel wall, as far as the cover, and ending on the opposite channel wall, and wherein the further deflection element is arranged such that it rises in the opposite direction between the channel walls, with the side parts being shaped to match the rising arrangement of the deflection elements, so as to separate the switching gas flows of the outer arcing chambers and of the central arcing chamber.

6. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 4, wherein the deflection elements are arranged parallel to the cover and to the bottom above the inlet openings for guiding the switching gas flows of the outer arcing chambers and extend from one channel wall to the other channel wall, and wherein side parts are arranged on the mutually facing sides of the deflection elements in order to separate the switching gas flows of the outer arcing chambers and the switching gas flow of the central arcing chamber.

7. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 6, wherein the deflection elements are arranged at a position between the cover and the bottom of the switching gas damper.

8. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 6, wherein the deflection elements are arranged at 2/3 of the height of the switching gas damper away from the bottom of the switching gas damper, and are arranged parallel to the bottom and to the cover.

9. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deflection elements are in the form of channel walls and are arranged such that the switching gas flows which emerge from the arcing chambers of the outer poles of the low-voltage power circuit breaker are carried away from the switching gas damper directly at the sides, and wherein the switching gas flow which emerges from the central arcing chamber is carried via at least one of and alongside the deflection elements to both opposite sides of the switching gas damper.

10. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 9, wherein the deflection elements are arranged such that they extend from the bottom to the cover of the switching gas damper.

11. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 10, wherein the deflection elements are arranged such that, originating from the front wall of the switching gas damper, they run between the inlet openings, which are located above the arcing chambers in the direction of the rear wall, are then angled, and wherein each runs behind the inlet openings for the switching gases from the outer arcing chambers as far as the side boundary of the switching gas damper in such a manner that an outlet channel is formed, which is coupled to the space above the central arcing chamber of the low-voltage power circuit breaker and which is open on both sides of the switching gas damper, for the switching gas flow of this central arcing chamber.

12. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 11, wherein the angles of the deflection elements are rounded.

13. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 9, wherein the deflection elements are arranged such that they extend between the front wall and the rear

wall such that one outlet channel for an outer arcing chamber is bounded by the bottom and a deflection element and an outlet channel, which is open on both sides and is connected to the central inlet opening in the bottom, is formed for the central arcing chamber between the deflection elements and the cover.

14. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 1, wherein a direction-changing enclosure with a guide chamber is attached to the side of the switching gas damper, on at least one side of the switching gas damper, in order to carry the switching gas flows which emerge from the switching gas damper at the side of the low-voltage power circuit breaker away downward.

15. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 12, wherein the direction-changing enclosure is angled.

16. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover of the switching gas damper is lengthened beyond its side boundary, and is provided with guide elements pointing downward.

17. (Amended) The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 16, wherein the guide elements are formed by elongations, which extend downward at the sides along the low-voltage power circuit breaker, of the side walls of the switching gas damper.

Please add the following new claims:

-- 18. The switching gas damper as claimed in claim 3, wherein one deflection element is arranged such that it extends above the inlet openings which are associated with the outer arcing chambers in the bottom of the switching gas damper and between the channel walls, and wherein a side part is arranged on the mutually facing sides of the deflection